

St. Mary of Mercy, St. Martin of Tours & St. Stephen Parishes

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parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-of-mercy; parishesonline.com/find/st-martin-church-57332; parishesonline.com/find/st-stephen-church-57319

December 9-15, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Masses:

Saturday (Vigil): 5:00 p.m. (St. Martin, Emery)
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. (Carmelite Monastery)
10:00 a.m. (St. Mary, Alexandria)

Rosary & Benediction of the Bl. Sacrament... Sunday: 3:15 p.m. (Carmelite Monastery)

Sacrament of Reconciliation see schedule below for weekday confessions, or by appointment

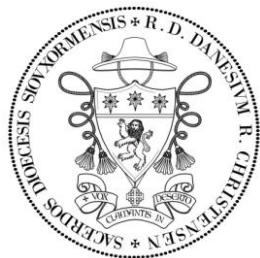
Sacrament of Baptism - Call Father to set up a date, preferably before the birth of the child.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony - Call to set up an appointment *at least* 6 months ahead of the proposed date for the Celebration of the Sacrament. A date will not be set until the first meeting with Father.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Dec. 9	Mon.	3:00 pm	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention (Carmel)
Dec. 10	Tues.	7:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention (Carmel)
Dec. 11	Wed.	7:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	Dean & Dorothy Kirby
Dec. 12	Thurs.	8:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention (Carmel)
Dec. 13	Fri.	7:30 am	Carmelite Monastery	+Francis Grove
Dec. 14	Sat.	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention (Carmel)
		4:15 pm	St. Martin's, Emery	Confessions
		5:00 pm	St. Martin's, Emery	People of the Parish
Dec. 15	Sunday	8:00 am	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention (Carmel)
		10:00 am	St. Mary, Alexandria	Darlene & Jim Peterson
		3:15 pm	Carmelite Monastery	NO Rosary and Benediction

From the Desk of Fr. Christensen – Bulletin Column:



I recently read an article online by Ellen Mady about the Novena of Surrender that I have been praying. I have found this novena, which you can find online easily by doing a search, has been a very powerful prayer. I encourage everyone to pray it. Here are some selections from the article: I ask God for what I need. A lot. Sometimes I feel like I run through a continuous strain of “Lord, please give me this” or “I need that” from morning to night. Although I try not to let my own needs be the exclusive focus of my prayer, they’re a big part of the reality. So much so that sometimes, as I hear my own thoughts and petitions, I wonder if I sound too needy. I wonder if I *am* too needy. We’re all needy: It’s part of the human condition.

Don Dolindo Ruotolo, an Italian priest who lived from 1882-1970, deeply understood the relationship between our neediness and God’s goodness. Ordained at the age of 23, Don Dolindo spent his life in prayer, sacrifice and service. Don Dolindo was a contemporary of the more widely known saint, Padre Pio. When some pilgrims from Naples, where Don Dolindo resided, went to Padre Pio in Pietrelcina, Padre Pio responded: “Why do you come here, if you have Don Dolindo in Naples? Go to him, he’s a saint!”

The simple priest is becoming most known for his spirituality of surrender. Well aware of the depth of human weakness and neediness, Don Dolindo saw this as a way of fostering continual union with God. While inviting us to continually bring our worries and concerns to the Lord, Don Dolindo teaches us that the focus doesn’t stay on our needs. He encourages us to bring our needs to God and then be at peace, leaving God free to care for us in his wisdom. Don Dolindo tells us that the Lord has promised to fully take on all the needs we entrust to him. In the words of Jesus to Don Dolindo: “Why do you confuse yourselves by worrying? Leave the care of your affairs to me and everything will be peaceful. I say to you in truth that every act of true, blind, complete surrender to me produces the effect that you desire and resolves all difficult situations. (...) A thousand

prayers do not equal one act of abandonment; don't ever forget it. There is no better novena than this: **O Jesus, I abandon myself to you. Jesus, you take over."**

The many healings and favors obtained by people who went to Don Dolindo and followed his advice, as well as those that have been attributed to his intercession, give witness to the power of grace that can be unleashed through such abandonment to Divine Providence.

	St. Martin, Emery	St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria
	Saturday, December 14, 5:00 pm	Sunday, December 15, 10:00 am
Lector	Quinton Berg	Kenny Kayser
EMHC	---	Gary Jarding
Altar Servers	Derek, Nathan and Riley Weber	Will & Weston Kayser Hayden Bahmuller
Gifts	Paul & Terry R.	Keith Kayser family
Ushers	Leon Weber Bob Berg	Rich Waldera Jim Zens
Musician	Janice Heiberger	Sandy Kayser
Rosary Leader	Volunteer	Dave Kayser
Sacristan	Volunteer	Joe Jarding
Money Counters		Don Wenande Nick Mentele

We are still looking for another priest to help with Christmas Masses so we can have a Mass in Bridgewater. We will publish times by next bulletin. Thank you for understanding.

Dead Theologians Society will meet on December 18th at 7pm at the Parish Hall in Alexandria. We have had a few people volunteer to help provide food for our meetings, but we are getting to the end of that list. Anyone else who would like to help should contact Amanda Mentele.

Christmas at the Cathedral is looking for Christmas Cookie donations for the Wednesday evening, December 18th, special performance for the homeless and other special guests. If you are able to donate some Holiday goodies please call 605-988-3769.

St. Mary's- Anyone interested in hosting the "Our Lady of Fatima" statue, please let Jan K. know. She is in the process of creating a new schedule. Email, leave message or you can text her at 605-212-4479.

St. Martin's- There will be choir practice on Wednesday, Dec. 11 & 18 at 6:30 pm for anyone interested in helping provide music at Christmas this year. We welcome long-time members and encourage new members— young and old—to join us. Call Dan Clarke at 449-4336 if you have any questions.

St. Martin's Sacred Heart League- Diamond Care Center Birthday Party is Wed., Dec. 11th at 2:30 pm. Band 4, LaVonne Olinger, is in charge. Anyone is welcome to go and help with singing Christmas carols.

St. Stephen Parish Christmas Party – We are having an evening of food, fun, and Bingo on Wed., Dec. 11th at 6:30 pm in the church hall. We would especially like the children of our parish to come and bring their families, even grandparents. Everyone is invited to come. If anyone has Christmas goodies that they would like to share that would be great!

St. Martin's/St Stephen's- The CRE program and Sacred Heart would like to invite all to our Christmas program with the annual Meal, Raffle and Santa Clause appearance at the hall afterwards on Dec. 15 at 4:30pm at St Martin's Church. Serving will begin at 5pm. Hope to see you all there!! Anyone interested in making a donation for the raffle at St Martin's please let Donna Squires 999-4717 or Jan Kayser 212-4479 know.

St. Stephen's sign up sheet is in the Vestibule at St. Stephen's for anyone who wants to buy a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$8.00. Write a check or attach your name to the money and put in the container or pay Sherril Vondra.

St. Mary's, St Stephen's and St Martin's have cribs set up for the Advent Baby Shower. Please bring new gifts for newborn to small children.

St Martin's Sacred Heart League is looking for a volunteer to be Vice President in 2020 and will be President in 2021. Please prayerfully consider giving of your time for a good cause. If interested please contact Lisa Schleich or Mary Ernster.

St Martin's- Parents of college/technical students please submit the name and address of the student to Susan Berg 999-2529 by Dec 15 as the Sacred Heart League would like send them a Christmas card and gift.

All Parishes: I am looking for a current list of people that are willing to give your time to Lector, Usher, Eucharistic Minister, Alter Servers, Gifts, Rosary Leader, Sacristan, Money Counters. Please email me at maryofmercy@sfcatholic.org, call me in the office, or call or text 605-212-4479. Thank you, Janice Kayser. God gave us all talents, please consider any of the above!! God Bless!!

All Parishes: There will be blank envelopes in the entrances of each church for those that would like their offering to go to a specific parish. Just write the name of the parish on the front so it gets to the correct fund. Thank you.

Our parishes have a new email address to communicate with the parish office. Please use **maryofmercy@sfcatholic.org** for bulletin announcements and any other communication with the parish secretary. Fr. Christensen's email remains the same.